

D-767

Samuel A. Williams Farm

Reliance vicinity

c. 1880

Private

The Samuel A. Williams farm is defined by a collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings including a two-story, three-bay frame farmhouse and a mid-sized gambrel roofed barn. The house is distinctive for its asymmetrical front in a three-bay, center hall plan. An off-center hip roofed porch supported by chamfered posts and accented with pierced brackets is juxtaposed against a single-story three-sided bay window to the south. The center hall plan main block retains late nineteenth century woodwork; principally a turned baluster staircase and a factory-made mantel in the south parlor. To the rear is a slightly shorter two-story service wing that includes a separate service staircase. The outbuildings on the farm include a gambrel roofed barn supported on a high concrete block foundation and a late nineteenth century corn crib.

The chain-of-title research for this farm traces its ownership back to Samuel A. Williams, who acquired a 162-acre parcel of the former lands of Minos Adams in January 1880. The architectural finishes of the house, coupled with the fact that the residence location is not indicated on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas printed in 1877, points to an 1880s date of construction for the farmhouse. Following the death of Samuel A. Williams, the property reverted to mortgage holder, Martina Hurst, of Baltimore City. The farm was shortly afterwards sold to Joseph M. Williams with a reduced 86 acres. During the early twentieth century, the farm was the residence of Fred L. and Jennie S. Williams, who purchased the property in 1908. Following World War II, the 86-acre farm was occupied by Reese M. and Esther C. Dennis.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. D-767

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic Samuel A. Williams Farm, Fred L. Williams Farm

other

2. Location

street and number 5962 Cokesbury Road not for publication

city, town Reliance x vicinity

county Dorchester

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owner)

name Elizabeth Paul

street and number 5962 Cokesbury Road telephone

city, town Seaford state DE zip code 19973

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Dorchester County Clerk of Court liber PLC 217 folio 365

city, town Cambridge tax map 16 tax parcel 66 tax ID number 01-002414

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	4
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	2
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	4
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	2
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
				Total
				Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory

7. Description

Inventory No. D-767

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

SUMMARY DESCRIPTION

The Samuel A. Williams farm is defined by a small complex of late 19th and early 20th century structures located on the southwest corner of the intersection of MD 392 and Cokesbury Road .34 of a mile west of the Reliance crossroads in Dorchester County, Maryland. The complex is oriented along an ell-shaped lane that has access from Cokesbury Road and MD 392. The farmhouse, dating from the late 19th century, has an eastern exposure with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis. The house is joined on the property by a pump house, corn crib and a gambrel roofed barn. There are as well some modern farm buildings and an in-ground pool.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The Fred L. Williams farm, located at 5962 Cokesbury Road, is defined by a late 19th and early 20th century complex just south of MD 392, three-quarters of a mile west of the Reliance crossroads, in eastern Dorchester County, Maryland. The two-story, three-bay, center hall plan frame dwelling dates around 1880. The single-pile main block is supported by an early 20th century concrete block foundation, and the exterior is clad with vinyl siding. The steeply pitched roof is covered with sheet metal. Extending westward from the main block is a shorter two-story, two-room plan service wing that dates to the late 19th century as well.

The east (main) elevation is an asymmetrical three-bay façade with a center entrance sheltered by a hip roofed porch supported on chamfered posts and enhanced with pierced decorative brackets that form an arched shape between the posts. The partially glazed front door is topped by a two-light transom fitted with colored glass that has been introduced by the current owner. The adjacent bay to the south is marked by three-sided bay window. Each side of the bay is pierced by a four-over-four sash window. Otherwise the house is lighted by replacement six-over-six sash windows flanked with replacement louvered shutters. At the upper outside corners of the house below the roofline, former pilasters capitals have been covered over with vinyl. The edge of the roof is finished with a boxed cornice and the roof is sheathed with red colored sheet metal.

The interior of the main block retains portions of late 19th century finishes including a turned baluster staircase typical of the post Civil War period. In the south room a factory produced mantel survives on the end wall and is distinguished by reeded side columns and a molded shelf. In the center room of the service wing there is an enclosed winder staircase. Infilling the northwest corner of the house is a two-story shed roofed section that encloses bathrooms.

Located behind the house is a line of late 19th century and early 20th century outbuildings including a pump house, now housing the furnace for the dwelling, a corn crib and a gambrel roofed barn supported

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on a concrete block foundation and sheathed with vertical metal siding. There is also on the property an in-ground pool and a vinyl fence that defines the rear entrance lane.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other: _____

Specific dates

Architect/Builder

Construction dates

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register☐ Maryland Register☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form - see manual.)

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

The Samuel A. Williams farm is defined by a collection of late nineteenth and early twentieth century buildings including a two-story, three-bay frame farmhouse and a mid-sized gambrel roofed barn. The house is distinctive for its asymmetrical front in a three-bay, center hall format. An off-center hip roofed porch supported by chamfered posts and accented with pierced brackets is juxtaposed against a single-story three-sided bay window to the south. The center hall plan main block retains late nineteenth century woodwork; principally a turned baluster staircase and a factory-made mantel in the south parlor. To the rear is a slightly shorter two-story service wing that includes a separate service staircase. The outbuildings on the 56-acre farm include a gambrel roofed barn supported on a high concrete block foundation and a late nineteenth century corn crib.

HISTORY AND SUPPORT

The chain-of-title research for this farm traces the ownership back to Samuel A. Williams, who acquired a 162-acre parcel of the land holdings of the late Minos Adams in January 1880.¹ The architectural finishes of the house, coupled with the fact that the residence location is not indicated on the Lake, Griffing, and Stevenson atlas, printed in 1877, points to 1880s date of construction for this two-story, three-bay single-pile farmhouse with its asymmetrical front elevation. Following the death of Samuel A. Williams, the property reverted to mortgage holder, Martina Hurst of Baltimore City. The farm was shortly afterwards sold to Joseph M. Williams with a reduced 86 acres.² During the early twentieth century the farm was the residence of Fred L. and Jennie S. Williams, who purchased the property in 1908.³ Following World War II, the 86-acre farm was occupied by Reese M. and Esther C. Dennis.⁴

¹ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 13/678, 1 January 1880, Dorchester County Courthouse.

² Dorchester County Land Record, CL 20/66, 7 February 1896, Dorchester County Courthouse.

³ Dorchester County Land Record, CL 33/625, 11 February 1908, Dorchester County Courthouse.

⁴ Dorchester County Land Record, RSM 47/49, 12 February 1943, Dorchester County Courthouse.

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Samuel A. Williams Farm
5962 Cokesbury Road
Reliance vicinity, Dorchester County, MD

Map 16, Parcel 66 56.70 acres

217/365

Neal S. Melnick, Interim Trustee

to

1.9.1981

Joseph Matthew Paul
Elizabeth Ann Paul

PLC 204/636

Larry L. Morris
Janice L. Morris

to

4.20.1978

Scott B. Jones
Linda G. Jones

86 acres

PLC 181/213

Esther C. Dennis

to

8.31.1973

Larry L. Morris
Janice L. Morris
(Reese Dennis died on or about 1.31.1973)

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RSM 47/79

Ernestine E. Taylor

to

2.12.1943

Reese M. Dennis
Esther C. Dennis

Home farm of Fred L. Williams

86 acres

CL 33/625

Joseph M. Williams & Mary Williams, Sussex Co., Delaware

to

2.11.1908

Freddie L. Williams and Jennie S. Williams

\$2,500

all that farm or tract of land purchased by William S. Williams
from Mrs. Martina A. Hurst, mortgagee, and upon which Samuel A.
Williams, dec'd, resided at the time of this death

CL 20/66

William S. Williams and Mary E. Williams

to

2/7/1896

Joseph M. Williams

\$1,700.00 86 acres

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Mortgage
CL 13/678

Martina A. Hurst, City of Baltimore

to

4.22.1890

Samuel A. Williams and Elizabeth A. Williams

\$1,700 all that farm where the said Samuel A. Williams now
resides in Fork Election District of Dorchester County

CL 1/681

Tilghman Hackett and Caroline Hackett

to

1.1.1880

Samuel A. Williams

\$1,620.00 'Wilson's Plain Dealing'purchased at the sale of the
real estate of Minos Adams, dec'd, situated and lying in
District No. 1, on the west side of the county road leading
from Wright's Mill to Johnson's crossroads designated as
Plot No. 9

162 acres

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Dorchester County Land Records, various volumes, Dorchester County Courthouse
Interview with Elizabeth Paul, 10.21.08

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property 56.70 acres
Acreage of historical setting 86 acres
Quadrangle name Seaford West, Del.-Md Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

The metes and bounds of this property are coincidental with the current boundary of the lot.

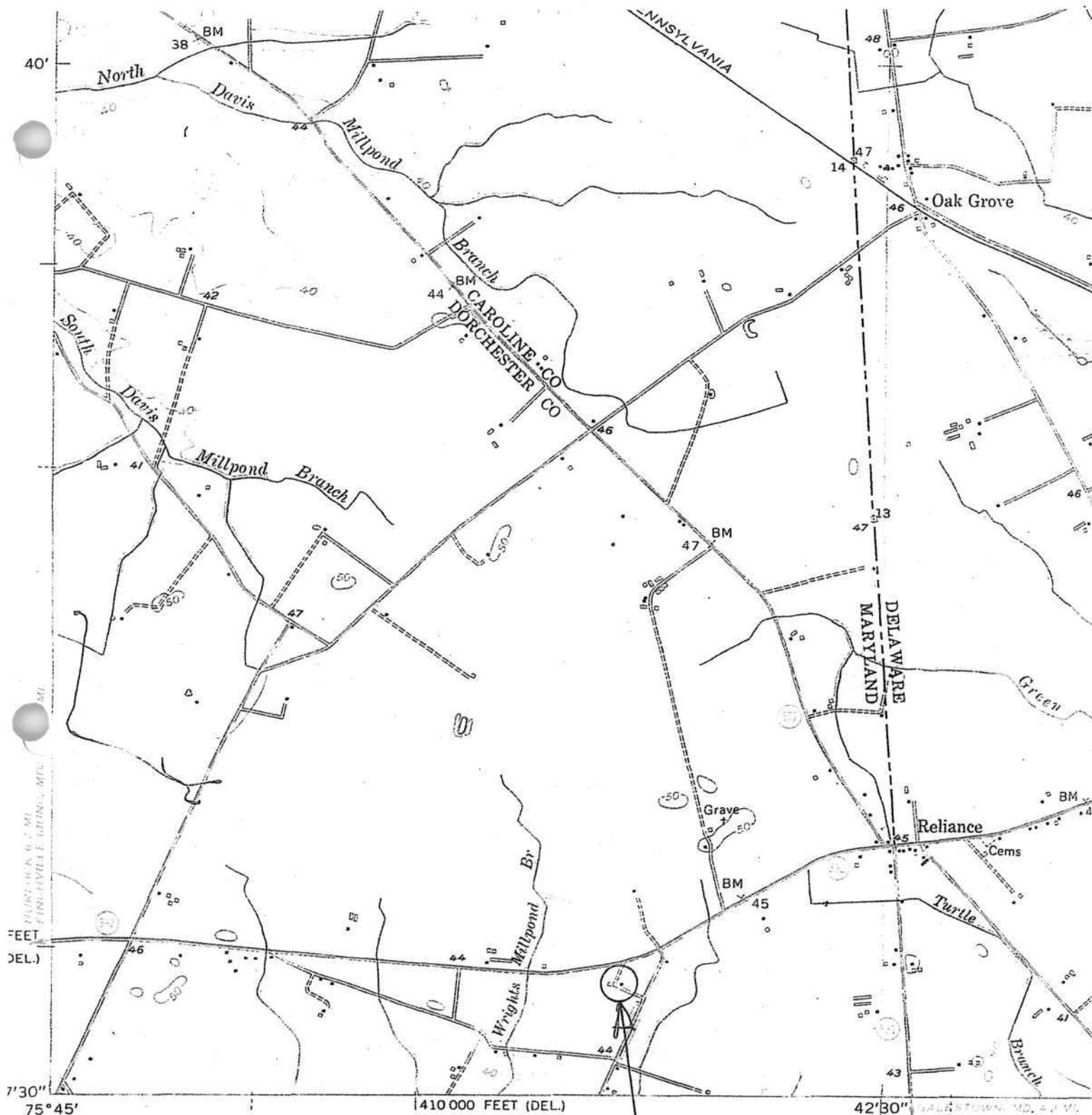
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	Paul B. Touart, Architectural Historian		
organization	Chesapeake Country Heritage & Preservation	date	10/21/2008
street & number	Cedar Hill, P. O. Box 5	telephone	410-651-1094
city or town	Westover	state	Maryland 21871

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600



Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey
Control by USGS and USC&GS

Culture and drainage in part compiled from aerial photographs
taken 1954. Topography by planetable surveys 1955

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum
10,000-foot grids based on Delaware and Maryland
coordinate systems

D-767, Samuel A. Williams Farm
Seaford West, Del. Md Quad

DECLINATION, 1955

THIS
FOR SAI
A FOLDER DESC



D-767

FRED L. WILLIAMS FROM

RELIANCE VIC., DONCASTER CO. MO.

SOUTHEAST ELEVATION

11/08, PAUL TOWN, PHOTOGRAPHED

WEG. / AND ILLUSTRATION. TOWN



D-767

FREN L. WILLIAMS KAHN
RELIANCE LLC, DOVERPORTER CO., MD.
SOUTHEAST ELEV. HOUSE & BARN
11/08, PAUL TOWN, PHOTOGRAPHER
N.E. / MD. HISTORICAL TRUST

2/3



D-767

FRED L. WILLIAMS KAREN
RESIDENCE 115, DONCHISTON 6, MD
EAST ELEVATION
11/08, PAUL B. TOWN, PHOTO.
NEE / MD HISTORICAL TRUST